

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CS
SUBJECT: GOCR REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 17 SPEECH
AT UN

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENDORSEMENT OF COSTA RICAN
PROPOSAL TO CREATE POSITION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
GREETED WITH ELATION BY PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER
FACIO. END SUMMARY.

2. AT COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN'S DINNER IN HONOR
OF PRESIDENT ODUBER MARCH 18, ODUBER TOLD CHARGE THAT HE HAD
JUST SENT PRESIDENT CARTER TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATIONS ON
PRESIDENT'S MARCH 17 UN ADDRESS. HE HAD INSTRUCTED FOREIGN
MINISTER TO DELIVER TEXT OF TELEGRAM TO CHARGE, AND HE ASKED THAT
CHARGE AGAIN INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER OF HIS ENORMOUS PLEASURE
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AND SATISFACTION OVER PRESIDENT'S ENDORSEMENT OF COSTA RICAN
PROPOSAL TO CREATE POSITION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AS
WELL AS OVER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION GENERALLY. ODUBER STATED
THAT MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT HE AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAD
WORKED OUT SCENARIO UNDER WHICH ODUBER MENTIONED COSTA RICAN
PROPOSAL IN MARCH 16 SPEECH IN SAN JOSE AND PRESIDENT CARTER
ENDORSED IT IN MARCH 17 SPEECH AT UN. HE WAS DELIGHTED TO ALLOW

THIS INTERPREATION OF EVENTS TO STAND UNCORRECTED.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO WAS ALSO HIGHLY PLEASED OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN ADDRESS. HE TOLD CHARGE THE SPEECH WAS "PERFECT; THE BEST PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN." HE SAID CURRENT U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS VERY ENCOURAGING. FACIO ALSO THANKED CHARGE FOR HAVING FORWARDED COPY OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COSTA RICA, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "EXCELLENT" AND "JUST RIGHT". OTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE EQUALLY PLEASED OVER DEPARTMENT'S REPORT.

4. DURING SAME CONVERSATION, FACIO ALSO RELIEVED HIMSELF OF HIS STRONG FEELINGS OVER "TOTALLY DISGUSTING" PERFORMANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT RECENT GENEVA MEETING. HE SAID THAT IF HRC COULD NOT SERIOUSLY ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA, AND COULD NOT BRING ITSELF TO TAKE SERIOUS LOOK AT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS IN SOVIET UNION THEN IT LACKED MORAL AUTHORITY TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHILE. HE HAD INSTRUCTED COSTA RICAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA MEETING TO VOTE ACCORDINGLY.

5. FACIO ALSO STATED THAT COSTA RICA CANNOT AGREE WITH CHARGES OF SOME LATIN NATIONS THAT U.S. REDUCTION OF ECONOMIC OR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED CONSTITUTES U.S. INTERVENTION IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THAT U.S. OBSERVATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS COULD LEAVE U.S. OPEN TO CHARGES OF ARROGANCE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT THAT GRANTING OR WITHDRAWAL OF ASSISTANCE FOR WHATEVER REASON WAS SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF DONOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: ODUBER AND FACIO CLEARLY ARE SOARING OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S MENTION AND ENDORSEMENT OF COSTA RICA'S TWELVE-YEAR OLD PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SUCH RECOGNITION OF AN INITIATIVE OF THIS SMALL DEMOCRACY, WHICH IS FIRMLY DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHOSE OWN HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE IS EXEMPLARY, COULD SERVE AS INCENTIVE FOR REDOUBLED COSTA RICAN EFFORTS TO INVIGORATE AND DEPOLITICIZE UN AND OAS CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. U.S.G. HAS STRONG HUMAN RIGHT ALLY IN COSTA RICA WHOSE VALUE AND USEFULNESS AS SUCH WILL BE ENHANCED BY CLOSE CONSULTATION OVER FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK. KILDAY

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